UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ROBERT TOMASSINI, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

VS.

3:14-cv-1226 (MAD/DEP)

ELMER ROBERT KEACH III, ESQ.

FCA US LLC,

Defendant.

APPEARANCES: OF COUNSEL:

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Mae A. D'Agostino, U.S. District Judge:

ORDER

Plaintiff commenced this putative class action on September 8, 2014. *See* Dkt. No. 1-1 at 2-32 ("Complaint"). After motions to dismiss and for summary judgment, the surviving cause of action is for violating New York General Business Law § 349 ("Section 349"). *See id.* Presently before the Court are Defendant FCA US, LLC's ("Chrysler") motion to deny class certification and motion for reconsideration. *See* Dkt. Nos. 173, 211. For the following reasons, the motion to deny class certification is denied, and the motion for reconsideration is stricken.

The parties have drawn out this litigation by flooding the Court with motions and voluminous accompanying exhibits. Chrysler filed the present motion to deny class certification only two days before Plaintiff was set to file his motion for class certification. *See* Dkt. Nos. 172, 173. Chrysler's motion primarily addresses the statute of limitations for claims under Section 349, and the impact of statute of limitations issues on Plaintiff's ability to establish the class certification elements required under Rule 23(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *See Mazzanti v. Gen. Elec. Co.*, No. 13-CV-1799, 2017 WL 923905, *3 (D. Conn. Mar. 7, 2017) ("To receive class certification, plaintiffs must first satisfy the four elements of Rule 23(a): (1) Numerosity, (2) commonality, (3) typicality, and (4) the adequacy of representation").

Plaintiff has now separately filed a motion for class certification, which also addresses the requirements for class certification under Rule 23. *See* Dkt. No. 194. Therefore, there are now

two pending motions that deal with the same issues and seek to resolve the same question: should the Court certify a class in this case? Rather than deciding these motions separately, the Court will construe Chrysler's motion to deny class certification as a supplemental opposition to Plaintiff's motion for class certification. All arguments raised in the Defendant's motion to deny class certification, Plaintiff's opposition to that motion, and Defendant's reply will be considered in deciding Plaintiff's motion for class certification.

Defendant has also filed a motion to reconsider the Court's March 8, 2018 Text Order. *See* Dkt. No. 211. That motion is stricken. As the Court noted in the March 8, 2018 Text Order, neither party may file any further motions until the Court has rendered a decision on Plaintiff's motion for class certification. *See* Dkt. No. 210. The Court does, however, make one exception: Defendant may file a single motion to exclude expert testimony. That motion should be filed on or before April 13, 2018. Plaintiff may respond to the motion to exclude expert testimony on or before April 30, 2018. No sur-reply will be allowed.

The Court will hear oral argument on the motion for class certification, Defendant's supplemental opposition to the motion for class certification, and Defendant's motion to exclude expert testimony at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, May 16, 2018. There will be no adjournment of the oral argument date.

After carefully reviewing the entire record in this matter, the parties' submissions and the applicable law, and for the above-stated reasons, the Court hereby

ORDERS that Defendant's motion to deny class certification (Dkt. No. 173) is **DENIED** and construed as a supplemental opposition to Plaintiff's motion for class certification (Dkt. No. 194); and the Court further

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ORDERS that Defendant's motion for reconsideration (Dkt. No. 211) is **STRICKEN**; and the Court further

ORDERS that Defendant may file a single motion to exclude expert testimony on or before April 13, 2018, and Plaintiff may respond on or before April 30, 2018; and the Court further

ORDERS that the Court will hear oral argument at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, May 16, 2018; and the Court further

ORDERS that the Clerk of the Court shall serve a copy of this Order on all parties in accordance with the Local Rules.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: March 14, 2018 Albany, New York

U.S. District Judge